

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           **Claim 1 (currently amended):** A high frequency heating  
2       apparatus for heating a thing to be heated[], comprising:  
3           a high frequency generating portion;  
4           a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be  
5       heated;  
6           a steam supply—generating portion for supplying  
7       generating steam into in the heating chamber located in the  
8       lower back portion of the heating chamber, and,  
9           a partition plate which serves to mount the thing to  
10      be heated thereon and is provided to be upward removable  
11      apart from a bottom face of the heating chamber at a  
12      predetermined interval, thereby dividing a space in the  
13      heating chamber,  
14           wherein at least one of a high frequency and steam  
15      generating portion is supplied to the heating chamber,  
16           wherein the steam is supplied into an upper space  
17      positioned above the partition plate.

**Claim 2 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 3 (previously presented):** The high frequency  
2       heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a gap is

3       provided between a peripheral edge of the partition plate  
4       and a side wall of the heating chamber, and the steam  
5       generated in the steam generating portion passes through a  
6       side wall of the heating chamber and is guided to the upper  
7       space of the heating chamber through the gap.

1           **Claim 4 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2       apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate  
3       has a through hole on a peripheral part, and the steam  
4       generated in the steam generating portion is guided to the  
5       upper space of the heating chamber via the through hole.

1           **Claim 5 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2       apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate  
3       includes a high frequency heating member.

1           **Claim 6 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2       apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate  
3       includes a high frequency shielding unit.

1           **Claim 7 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2       apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the high frequency  
3       shielding unit includes a metal plate.

1           **Claim 8 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2       apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

3 preheating means for raising an atmospheric temperature in  
4 the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 9 (original):** The high frequency heating  
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating  
3 means includes an upper heater provided in an upper part of  
4 the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 10 (original):** The high frequency heating  
2 apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating  
3 means includes a high frequency heating member provided on  
4 the partition plate.

1           **Claim 11 (currently amended):** ~~The high frequency~~  
2 ~~heating apparatus according to claim 1, A high frequency~~  
3 heating apparatus for heating a thing to be heated,  
4 comprising:

5           a high frequency generating portion;

6           a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be  
7 heated;

8           a steam generation portion for generating steam in the  
9 heating chamber; and,

10          ~~wherein a steam delivery means has a steam delivery~~  
11 ~~path for guiding the generated steam from an inner part of~~  
12 ~~inside the heating chamber to an outside of the heating~~

13     chamber, thereby introducing the steam through a steam  
14     delivery path back into the heating chamber again.

1                 **Claim 12 (original):** The high frequency heating  
2     apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate  
3     is engaged with an engaging portion provided in a plurality  
4     of height positions on an internal wall surface of the  
5     heating chamber.

1                 **Claim 13 (previously presented):** The high frequency  
2     heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam  
3     generating portion is provided along a wall surface on a  
4     back side of a bottom face of the heating chamber.

1                 **Claim 14 (currently amended):** The high frequency  
2     heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam  
3     supply generating portion is constituted in such a manner  
4     that the steam directly hits upon the thing to be heated.

1                 **Claim 15 (original):** The high frequency heating  
2     apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising high  
3     frequency distributing means for distributing and supplying  
4     a high frequency into the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 16 (currently amended):** The high frequency  
2       heating apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising  
3       a control portion for controlling the high frequency  
4       generating portion, the steam ~~supply-generating~~ portion and  
5       the preheating means,

6           the control portion being constituted to execute, in  
7       this order, a preheating step of heating the heating  
8       chamber by heat generation of the preheating means and a  
9       main heating step of supplying at least one of a high  
10      frequency generated from the high frequency generating  
11      portion and steam supplied from the steam ~~supply-generating~~  
12      portion to carry out a heating process over the thing to be  
13      heated.

1           **Claim 17 (currently amended):** The high frequency  
2       heating apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising  
3       a control portion for controlling the high frequency  
4       generating portion, the steam ~~supply-generating~~ portion and  
5       the preheating means,

6           the control portion having an interrupt processing  
7       function for supplying steam from the steam ~~supply~~  
8       ~~generating~~ portion into the heating chamber for a  
9       predetermined time while the thing to be heated is heated.

1           **Claim 18 (original):** The high frequency heating  
2       apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a steam  
3       supply switch for executing the interrupt processing in an  
4       optional timing.

1           **Claim 19 (currently amended):** ~~The high frequency~~  
2       ~~heating apparatus according to claim 1 furtherA high~~  
3       frequency heating apparatus for heating a thing to be  
4       heated comprising:  
5       a high frequency generating portion;  
6       a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be  
7       heated;  
8       a steam generating portion for generating steam in the  
9       heating chamber located in the lower back portion of the  
10      heating chamber;  
11      a feed water tank;  
12      a feed water pipe connecting the feed water tank to  
13      the steam ~~supply generating~~ portion where the feed water  
14      pipe further comprises an intermediate portion; and,  
15      a heater to heat the water in the intermediate portion  
16      before the water enters the steam generating portion.

1           **Claim 20 (previously presented):** The high frequency  
2       heating apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising  
3       an evaporator pan having a detachable cover.

**Claim 21 (new):** The high frequency heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam generating portion is located only in the lower back portion of the heating chamber.